

Carver County Library Suggests *Keep Calm and Read On*

Chris Cleave - [*Everyone Brave is Forgiven*](#) (CLE 2016)

London, 1939. The day war is declared, Mary North leaves finishing school unfinished, goes straight to the War Office, and signs up. Tom Shaw decides to ignore the war--until he learns his roommate Alistair Heath has unexpectedly enlisted. Mary is certain she'd be a marvelous spy. When she is instead made a teacher, she finds herself defying prejudice to protect the children her country would rather forget. Tom, meanwhile, finds that he will do anything for Mary. And when Mary and Alistair meet, it is love, as well as war, that will test them in ways they could not have imagined.

Lissa Evans - [*Their Finest*](#) (EVA 2017)

It is 1940. France has fallen, and only a narrow strip of sea lies between Great Britain and invasion. The war could go either way and everyone must do their bit. Catrin Cole is drafted into the Ministry of Information to help "write women" into propaganda films--something that the men aren't very good at. She is quickly seconded to the Ministry's latest endeavor: a heart-warming tale of bravery and rescue at Dunkirk. It's all completely fabricated, of course, but what does that matter when the nation's morale is at stake?

Sarah Gruen - [*At the Water's Edge*](#) (GRU 2015)

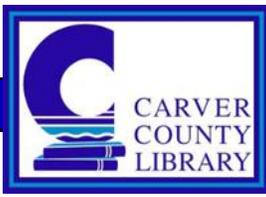
After disgracing themselves at a party in Philadelphia in 1944, Madeline Hyde and her husband Ellis are cut off financially by his father, a former army colonel ashamed of his son's inability to serve in the war. When Ellis and his friend Hank decide that the only way to regain the Colonel's favor is to succeed where the Colonel failed--by hunting down the Loch Ness monster--Maddie reluctantly follows them. They find themselves in a remote village in the Scottish Highlands, where the locals have nothing but contempt for the interlopers.

Alexander McCall Smith - [*The Good Pilot Peter Woodhouse*](#) (MCC 2018)

Val Eliot, a young woman working on an English farm during the war, meets Mike, a U.S. Air Force pilot stationed nearby. When Val rescues a Border Collie named Peter Woodhouse, who is being mistreated by his owner, she realizes the dog would be safer with Mike. And so Peter Woodhouse finds a new home on the air force base. Peter Woodhouse becomes Dog First Class, a canine mascot on the base, and Val becomes Mike's fiancée. But then disaster threatens . . .

Susan Meissner - [*Secrets of a Charmed Life*](#) (MEI 2015)

Current day, Oxford. Young American scholar Kendra Van Zant interviews Isabel McFarland just when the elderly woman is ready to give up secrets about the war that she has kept for decades. 1940s England. Hundreds of thousands of children are evacuated to foster homes in the rural countryside. But even as Emmy Downtree and her sister Julia find refuge in a charming Cotswold cottage, Emmy's burning ambition to return to the city pits her against Julia's profound need for her sister's presence. Acting at cross purposes just as the Luftwaffe rains down its terrible destruction, the sisters are cruelly separated, and their lives are transformed.



A. J. Pearce - [Dear Mrs. Bird](#) (PEA 2018)

London, 1940. Emmeline Lake is Doing Her Bit for the war effort, volunteering as a telephone operator with the Auxiliary Fire Services. When Emmy sees an advertisement for a job at the London Evening Chronicle, her dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent suddenly seem achievable. But the job turns out to be working as a typist for the fierce and renowned advice columnist, Henrietta Bird, who is very clear: letters containing any Unpleasantness must go straight in the bin. But when Emmy reads poignant notes from women who may have Gone Too Far with the wrong men, or who can't bear to let their children be evacuated, she is unable to resist responding and secretly begins to write back to the readers who have poured out their troubles

Lucy Ribchester – [The Amber Shadows](#) (RIB 2017)

Bletchley Park, 1942: As World War II rages on, Honey Deschamps sits at her type-x machine, transcribing decrypted signals from the German Army. Halfway across the world, Hitler's armies are marching into Leningrad, leaving a trail of destruction and pillaging the country's most treasured artworks, including the famous Amber Room. As reports begin filtering into Bletchley Park about the stolen loot, Honey receives a mysterious package, hand-delivered from a man that she has never seen before who claims that he works at the Park as well. The package is postmarked from Russia, and inside is a small piece of amber . . .

Alix Rickloff - [The Way to London](#) (RIC 2017)

On the eve of Pearl Harbor, impetuous and overindulged, Lucy Stanhope, granddaughter of an earl, is living a life of pampered luxury in Singapore until one reckless act will change her life forever. Exiled to England to stay with an aunt she barely remembers, Lucy never dreamed that she would be one of the last people to escape Singapore before war engulfs the entire island, and that her parents would disappear in the devastating aftermath. Now grief stricken and all alone, she must cope with the realities of a grim, battle-weary England.

Jennifer Robson – [Goodnight From London](#) (ROB 2017)

In the summer of 1940, ambitious American journalist Ruby Sutton gets her big break: the chance to report on the European war as a staff writer for Picture Weekly newsmagazine in London. She jumps at the opportunity not only to prove herself but also to start fresh in a city that knows nothing of her humble origins. But life in besieged Britain tests Ruby in ways she never imagined.

Jennifer Ryan – [The Chilbury Ladies' Choir](#) (RYA 2017)

As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to close the choir and instead "carry on singing," resurrecting themselves as the Chilbury Ladies' Choir. An enchanting ensemble story that shuttles from village intrigue to romance to the heartbreaking matters of life and death, Jennifer Ryan's debut novel thrillingly illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

Elizabeth Wilhyde – [If I Could Tell You](#) (WIL 2017)

England, 1939: Julia Compton has a beautifully well-ordered life. Once a promising pianist, she now has a handsome husband, a young son she adores, and a housekeeper who takes care of her home. Then, on the eve of war, a film crew arrives in her coastal town. She falls in love, and the consequences are devastating. Penniless, denied access to her son, and completely unequipped to fend for herself, she finds herself adrift in wartime London.